

Music Man delighted audiences and actors

By Melissa Chamblee

Theatre Tuscaloosa presented the Music Man at the Bean Brown Theatre June 22- July 1. The cast

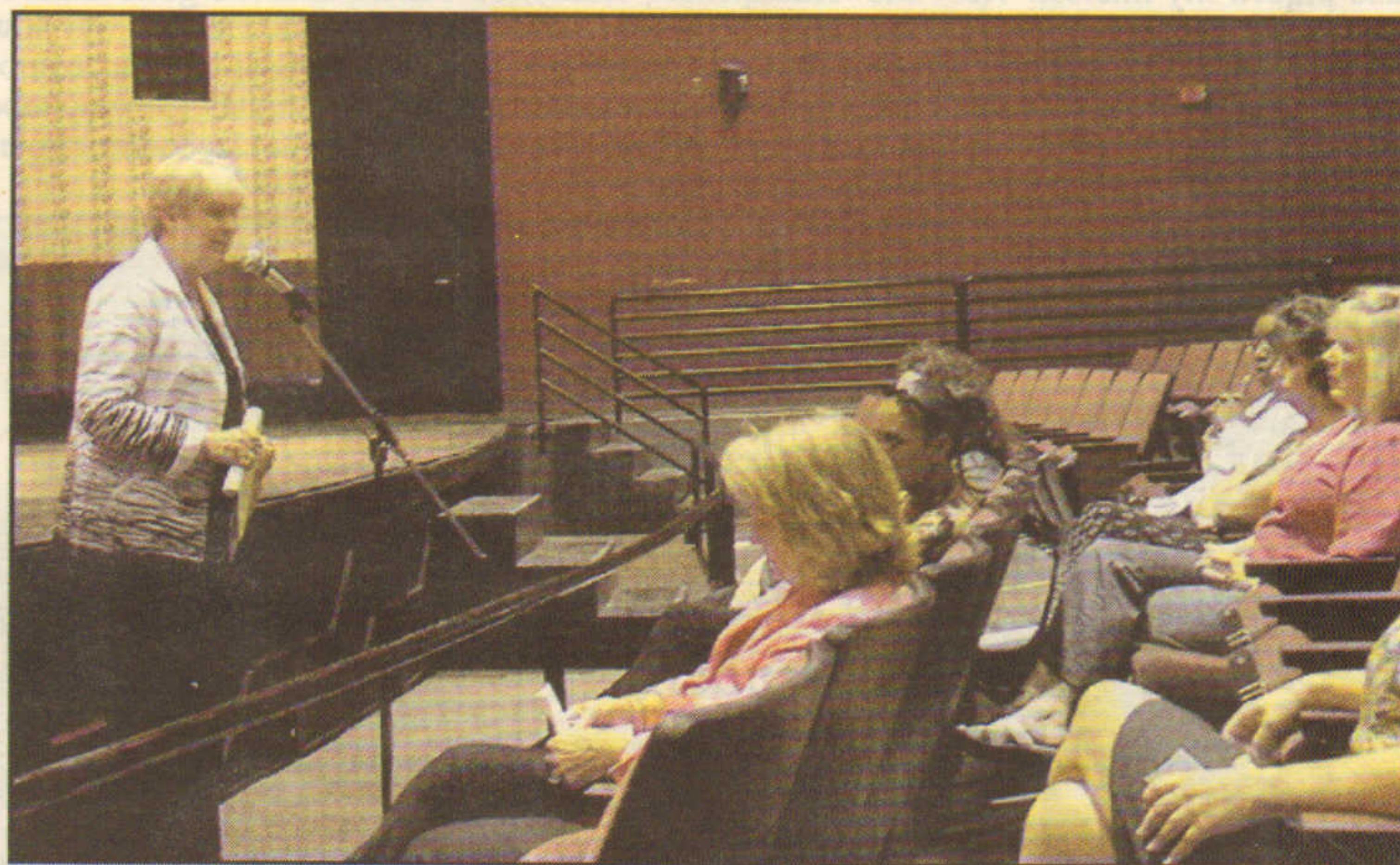


Kip Tyner took on the role of Henry Hill for the third time this summer

consisted of seasoned veterans and first-time Theatre Tuscaloosa performers. The mixed cast of children and adults seemed to bring to life the hilarious tale of Harold Hill, the con artist and kept the audience

See Music Man
Page 4

Jordan addresses concerns



Dr. Joanne Jordan addressed all the faculty and staff in the Bean-Brown Theatre after her role changed from acting to interim president of Shelton State Community College.

**“My major
role is to keep
the college
moving
forward”**

**A Q&A session with
Interim President Dr.
Joanne Jordan**

On Friday, Nov. 3 Dr. Joanne Jordan was named acting president of Shelton State Community College after then-president Dr. Rick Rogers went on administrative leave following investigations into the two-year college system.

Jordan brought with her 40 years of experience with the two-year college system and, in particular, several years as president of Southern Union Community College.

On June 29, Rogers retired and Dr. Jordan was made interim president, extending her stay until a permanent replacement can be selected. The search for a new president will recruit both in and out of state and is expected to see its completion before the end of the year.

Jordan will remain until a new president takes office. She clearly understands what is expected of

Steve Fair named new dean



The Department of Postsecondary Education has approved a reorganization for Shelton State which establishes the position of Dean of Administrative Services with Steve Fair named to assume this role.

The primary responsibilities of this division of the College will be facilities oversight to include construction, maintenance, housekeeping and grounds; information technology serv-

ices to include both administrative and instructional components; security services; and auxiliary services.

In a memo, interim President Joanne Jordan urged faculty and staff to get behind Dean Fair and offer him their fullest cooperation as Shelton works towards transitioning the responsibilities noted above and perfecting the specifics of the functions assigned to this division.

See Jordan
Page 6

Inside The Courier

• Henri and Michelle brave the 'deathly hollows' around Alabama...page 2 —————>

• Shel-Shots captures some of the campus's natural beauty—three times over...page 5

• The Courier rounds-up academic and organizational news...page 7



Ghost hunters search deathly hollows

By Henri Cheramie and Michelle Rosenberg

The town of Carrollton, in Pickens County, is about 30 miles away from Tuscaloosa. There, an old courthouse stands in the middle of town. People are often seen around this courthouse taking pictures and looking up at a window pane. In this window pane a face is seen by many. It is said to be the face of a man who was to be lynched by a mob of people in 1878. When the mob cornered him he supposedly said, "If you kill me, I will haunt you for the rest of your lives." They didn't heed his warning, and hung him. The next day, his ghostly image was in the courthouse window. It is still there today.

This story is obviously well known to many in Alabama. Many dispute it, as being a flaw in the glass, or figments of overactive group imagination, but whatever it is, it is downright spooky. My friend Michelle took me to see this phenomena. I was blown away. To my eyes, there was indeed, a face in the courthouse window. I was left with a spooky feeling and began to think, what if there are more places out there in Alabama like this?

I began to search online

and found www.Theshadowlands.net, which gave me a list of the places in Alabama that were haunted. Michelle sent me links to many places that also piqued my interest. We



experience yourself.

Of all the places we called, there were three that seemed most interested in telling us about their hauntings. Tuscaloosa, Andalusia, and Huntsville. Many of the other places we called seemed angry, or downright offended that someone would call them asking about ghosts. Places like The Red Lion Inn, Hell's Gate, and The Old Lumber Mill, all hold significant water in the state's ghost tales.

*Hand-drawn
Illustrations
by Michelle
Rosenberg*

began to make phone calls and inquire about these hauntings.

Most ghost stories, let's say, 90% are just that, stories. Some have validity, with scientific proof (that is usually disputed), but most are just stories people tell to scare one another. And usually, even if a ghost is documented, it is usually "explained" away by something else. So, if 90% is just legend and 10% is highly suspect, how can you ascertain if these stories are true or not? Well, you can't, unless you go and have an

Each region has its stories and each region either embraces them or violently rejects them.

Alabama seems to do a little bit of both. When asked about these legends, some towns were hesitant and downright rude about the idea that some place in their vicinity was haunted; other towns, like Andalusia, would excitedly share stories and experiences people had. All and all, most people were eager to talk about their towns, but a haunting is not part of their pride.

To "hunt ghosts" you

can buy some fancy equipment and spend money and time searching out places, calling people, having people call you, and making it a career. We weren't looking to do that. We got our destinations down, got our low grade, ghost-hunting equipment (digital camera, tape and digital recorder, note-



books, compass) and we set out. Now these items are useful in that they help establish proof and are relatively inexpensive. Ghosts emit a sort of electrical energy and, depending on their power and size, they will show up in pictures, disturb digital instruments, and make sounds that can be recorded on tape. The notebooks are to record if you see something. So, with Ghost Hunting 101 over,

let's move on, shall we?

Our first stop was a place right here in town. A place everyone knows about and many people don't talk about. Old Bryce, an abandoned insane asylum, was first on our list. Now, keep in mind, it is highly illegal, and trespassing if you go beyond the gates. But, at risk of jail time, we did it anyway.

This place, even the grounds surrounding it, was foreboding. An abandoned nursery home, some other dormitories, and then Old Bryce. A large white front with brick sides...it was burnt out, scary, and dangerous. Litter was everywhere, grass was grown high and the area was filled with beds, desks, chairs, and all sorts of other pieces of furniture. The door-less entrance and the big windows made the place look like a monster. We did not enter the building, but got many pictures. I do not know if Old Bryce is haunted, and I don't know if I want to find out. We felt like it was a bad idea to go in. A creepy feeling followed me as we left. I never want to go back again.

So, our first adventure was sort of a bust. The next weekend, we decided to try Huntsville. Now when many of these places were first contacted, the first place we tried was the library. You

See Ghosts

Page 8

The Shelton State Courier is brought to its readers by the academic and extra-curricular programs of Shelton State Community College.

Shelton State Courier

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The Shelton State Courier is a campus newspaper, written and produced with the help of students.

Among other functions, it is intended as a vehicle for student expression, and all students are urged to participate with submissions of written and artistic material.

The college seeks to fulfill the statement for academic freedom in working with the students in the pro-

duction of this paper.

All publications are subject to review by the Publications Action Group, which has been delegated the responsibility to review all college publications for content and accuracy.

The Courier is an equal opportunity employer and student organization. All students are encouraged to participate.

News From Phi Theta Kappa



40th annual International Honors Institute

Katie Cowart, Vice President of Scholarship for the Shelton State Community College chapter of Phi Theta Kappa and Claire Brock, Phi Theta Kappa advisor, attended the 40th Annual International Honors Institute, June 18-23, 2007, held at Wheaton College, Wheaton, Ill.

This year's Honors Topic was "Gold, Gods, and Glory: The Global Dynamics of Power." The annual International Honors Institute is an intense six-day educational conference. Institute participants explore the Phi Theta Kappa Honors Study Topic through speaker presentations, small group discussions and field trips.

Each session included a featured speaker with a question/answer period and was followed by small group discussions. Since this is an international organization, the discussions brought forth ideas from not only across the country but also from around the world. Some of the featured speakers included: Ralph Begleiter, former CNN correspondent, who presented "Global

Media and the Power of Images." Chapmyn Spoken Word presenting "The Road to Darfur." Dr. David Oshinsky, Pulitzer Prize winner, presenting "Polio: An American Story." Other topics of interest were "Personal Power," "The Power of Music in Film," "How to Win a Cosmic War," and a "Town Hall Meeting," which gave students the chance to review video clips of different types of media and discuss their relevance to society and the relevance to the honors topic.

Phi Theta Kappa's mission is to recognize and encourage the academic achievement of two-year college students and to provide opportunities for individual growth and development through participation in honors, leadership, service and fellowship programming.

Shelton State Community College is fortunate to have an active Phi Theta Kappa chapter. The chapter engages in educational and service projects, college projects as well as promoting excellence in education.

Get On Board Days will be held August 28 & 29 from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. in the Atrium on the Martin Campus.

All of the various clubs, groups and organizations will be on hand to provide information on how to join them in order to broaden your experience at Shelton State. If you're here this fall you need to get on board and stop by Get on Board Days!

COLLEGE SOFT KNOCKS

*Humor by
Henri Cheramie*

When Did I Become an Adult?

I was driving around the other day listening to Paul Harvey on the radio, eating a big bowl of fiber, and drinking black coffee when I wondered: When did I become an adult?

So, after driving ten miles under the speed limit in the fast lane with my turn signal on, I realized I was not only an adult, but I was an old man.

As I sat in a booth at Country Kettle for the early bird special, I began to run down my list of reasons I'm an old man:

Reason 1: I listen to NPR in the mornings and afternoon for news. If I miss the news, I get grumpy. Not only that, if I don't like the program that is on NPR, I switch over to the oldies station.

Reason 2: Instead of a burger or a chili dog, I eat tuna fish sandwiches.

Reason 3: Sometimes I eat breakfast the night before so I don't have to in the morning.

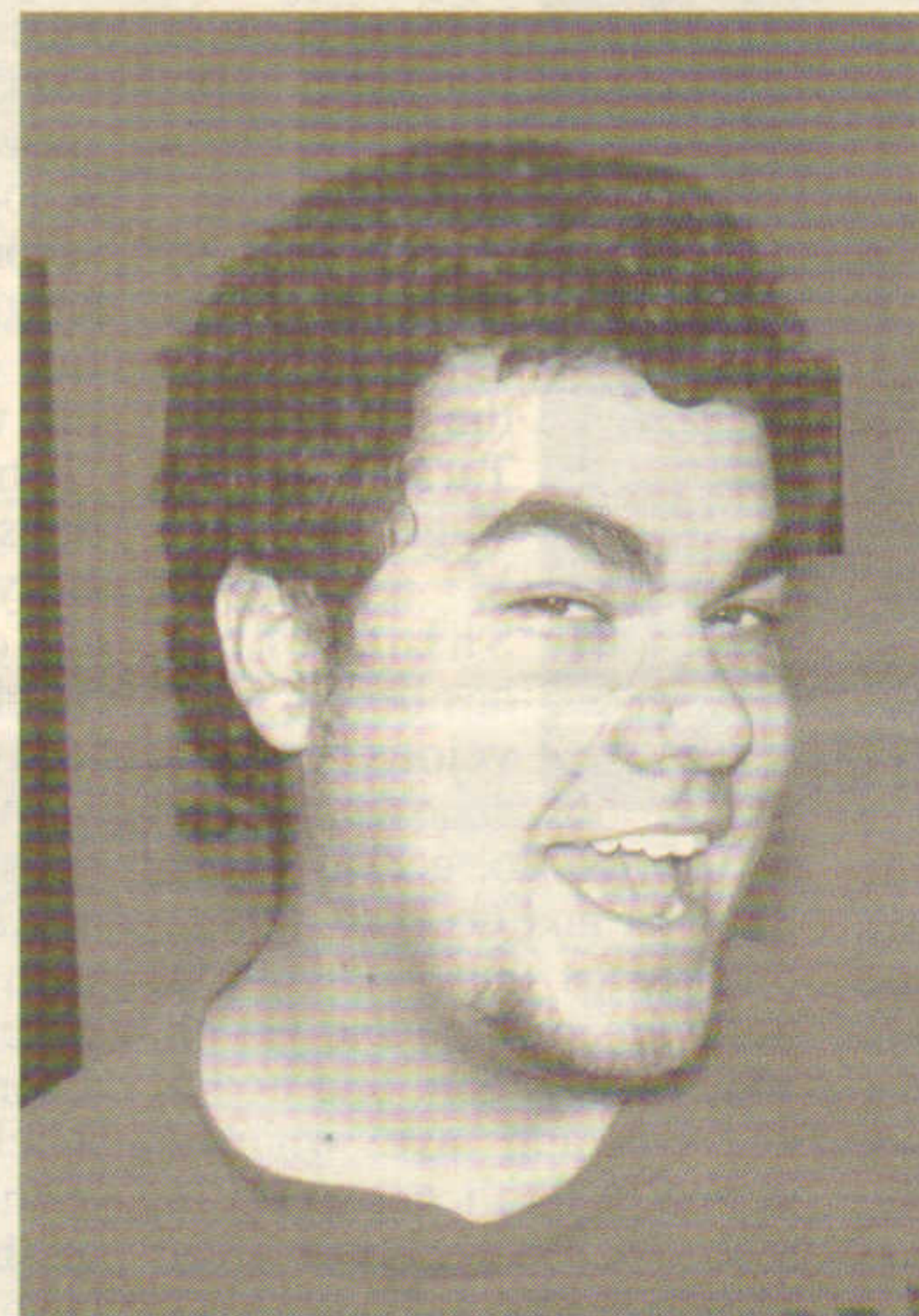
Reason 4: I often say "Kids these days..." or "When I was younger."

Reason 5: I look up to Garrison Keillor and Paul Harvey.

Reason 6: Modern Rock is "too loud."

Reason 7: I like listening to books on CD...while I drive.

Reason 8: I actually care about the presidential



elections.

Reason 9: I find myself watching the Fox News Channel.

Reason 10: Foul language on television bothers me.

I mean, I am 23 years old. I shouldn't be preparing for retirement. I should be out there driving wild, going to parties, listening to loud music. Not preparing my taxes, asking about my 401K, and making sure my bills are paid two weeks in

advance. And I am sure this is happening to you, too. Ask a kid now who Dangermouse is. How about the Ghostbusters? See if they remember Vanilla Ice, MC Hammer, or Beanie Man. What about video tapes? Rainbow Bright? Mega Man? Bullwinkle? Nirvana? In Living Color? He-Man?

You'd be hard-pressed to find any kids nowadays who remember any of those. I feel like such an old man when I get around kids. It's odd...but I am so fond of the past that the present seems so bland. What defines modern culture anyway? Isn't it the generation that were children when the last wave of modern culture hit? If so, we're doing a pretty poor job of creating a memorable modern culture.

Christina Aguilera? Korn? Akon? *She's All That*? *Talladega Nights*? *Gigli*? Harry Potter mania? Come on...When our children grow up what are they going to remember? Freddie Prinze Junior and Sara Michelle Gellar being passed up for Academy Awards? Scooby Doo was cheated! Cheated I tell you!

But I digress...besides, It's already ten in the morning and I gotta take a nap. And hey, stay offa my lawn!

Visit the Shelton State Courier Online!

Go to www.sheltonstate.edu and click on "News and Releases", then "Shelton State Courier"

Music Man from Page 1

laughing the whole way through.

Harold Hill (Kip Tyner) is a fast talking salesman and con artist who arrives in the quiet town of River City Iowa just weeks before the town's Fourth of July celebration of 1912. He begins his scam when he convinces



the town that their youth is in potential danger of being corrupted by the new pool table in town. Hill tells them that their only hope of redemption is to start a boy's band with him as the leader.

Of course, the parents

is a con artist so he doesn't know a thing about making music. Through his fast talking antics Hill manages to win over the whole town, except Marian Paroo (Michelle Bunch) who is the town's librarian/music teacher, and Mayor Shinn (Jeff Binford).

Ultimately, Marian joins Hill's side because he has helped her withdrawn brother, Winthrop (Noah

Schatzline) come out of his shell. But, as the Fourth of July celebration draws near, Hill faces being exposed and put in jail because Charlie Cowell, (Gary Jones) the anvil salesman rolls into town seeking Hill's comeuppance.

Jeff Binford made his first appearance on the Theatre Tuscaloosa stage playing Mayor Shinn: "This has been a marvelous experience for me, for

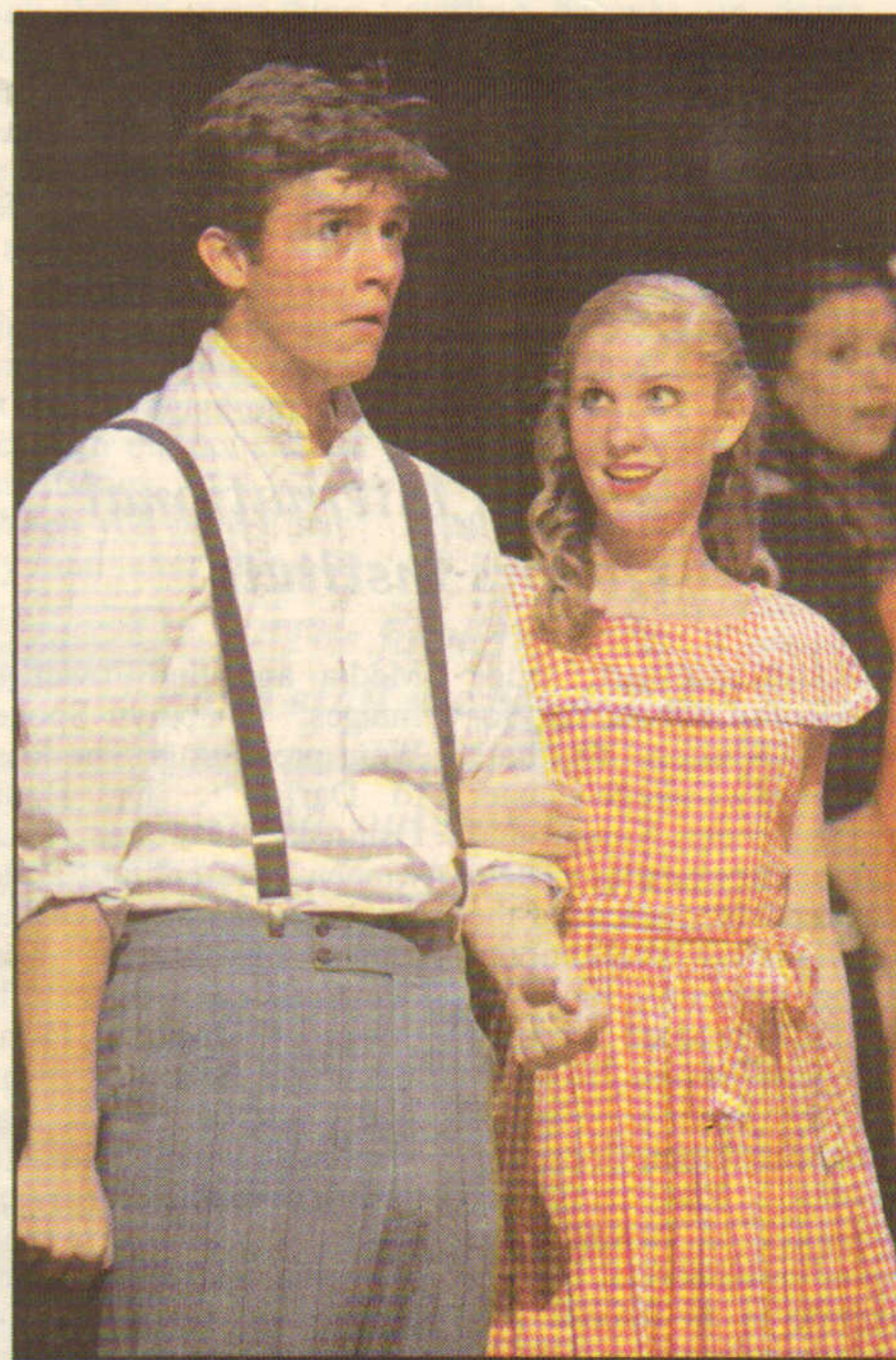
all of us, to get to work together and do such a great musical as this. It's fun to put on a costume and get on stage and scream and holler and rant and rave, which I normally don't get to do in real life. We've got a great orchestra and a great direc-

tor, Tina Fitch, and of course the facilities here are just second to none, anywhere. It's just been a wonderful experience for all of us."

Jonathon Lyons played the Conductor and Constable Locke: "This is my first time doing a professional production of any Broadway show and I enjoyed everything about it. I have loved every experience that I have had doing the show and I would just like to thank Tina for casting me in it."

Joe Lay is a familiar face on the Theatre Tuscaloosa stage. This time he played Salesman #1 and a townsman. "This is one of the first shows I did back in high school, so this is actually my second time doing the show and it's neat to see it come full circle and the show is just wonderful," Lay said. "It transcends all generations and it's a wonderful story about how music can change a community, much like music can today."

Amanda Manos was the stage manager for *The Music Man*: "It's been fun with the show. I've watched a lot of young actors mature, there's definitely a lot of little bitties in the show that get most of the laughs, but it has been a great experience."



will have to give "Professor" Hill money for band uniforms and instruments. Hill promises that in return the kids will learn how to make music by using his "Think System"; but Hill of course

tor, Tina Fitch, and of course the facilities here are just second to none, anywhere. It's just been a wonderful experience for all of us."

Director of Theatre Tuscaloosa Tina Finch

Scenes from *The Man* (from Top to Bottom) show Jake Boyd as Tommy Djilas and Courtney Daver as Zanetta Shinn spooning in River City; Anna Kate Campbell as Amaryllyis and Michelle Bunch as Marian Paroo singing to an as-yet imaginary someone; Jeff Binford as Mayor Shinn dealing with city fathers that Henry Hill has turned into a barbershop quartet; Marian the Librarian getting unsolicited advice from the ladies of the town; and Kip Tyner as Hill finally finding true love and trust with Marian at the play's end.



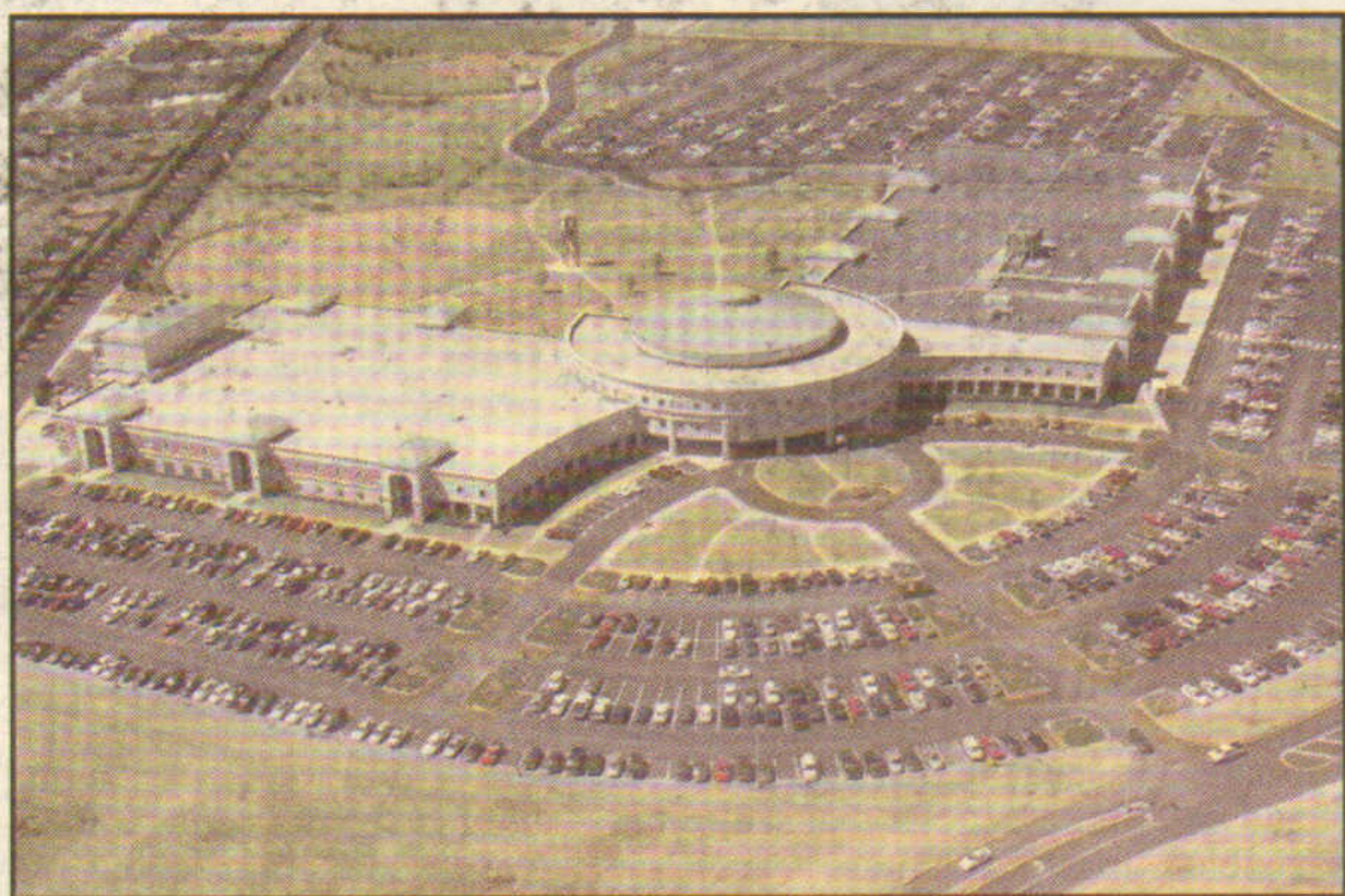
Shel-Shots



Biology Instructor Wade Cooper is hanging up the old lab coat—at least on a full-time basis—after more than 30 years in the classroom. Cooper started out in the public school system and was one of Shelton's first hires in the late '70s.



Even though it wasn't quite ready for business, the doors of the Student Organizational Center were open wide one afternoon near the second floor atrium.



Sometimes it's good to just get above it all...



Was it the drought that made this such a good year for crepe myrtles, including on the campus of Shelton State?



Who says Shelton State's colors are green and white?



Sandra Ray spoke to the faculty and staff after Dr. Rick Rogers's retirement was announced and Dr. Joanne Jordan was named interim president.

Jordan from Page 1

her during her tenure, no matter how long that might be. Most important is the implementation of recommendations outlined in an investigative report by a team from within the college system.

The *Courier* sat down with Dr. Jordan to discuss these expectations and what she can do to help the college move forward. She also shared with us details about her past career at Southern Union, how she ended up here at Shelton, and her views on the economic development of West Alabama and Shelton's impact on it.

What can you say about the status of Shelton State this last year, given that, we guess, not everything has been settled?

Jordan: "I think the year has been an uncertain one for Shelton State. I think the events over which the college has had no control have permeated a lot of thinking and activities. I think it's an unfortunate situation, but I know that we have had some resolution to the uncertainties regarding administrative leadership.

"The college is certainly ready to move forward and continue with the wonderful programs that we offer. I would go ahead and say that when I came to Shelton State I felt, having observed it from afar, that it was one of, if not the best, two-year college in the state. I found nothing to contradict that. The faculty and staff are capable, qualified, dedicated, outstanding individuals who have given me a tremendous amount of cooperation which has really caused my job to not be a difficult one.

"Yes, we found some problems that we have worked to correct. Even then the problems have been manageable problems. I don't think the basic pattern of operations has been affected in any negative way. We constantly strive to be better, and we'll continue to get better as we move forward."

Is it fair to say we're working from a clean slate now?

Jordan: "I'm really not privileged to any kind of information related to what may happen regarding investigations being carried out on both the federal and state levels. I don't know the status of those.

"In terms of Shelton State as an entity, I know what the chancellor expects of us. He expects us to move forward; he made that clear to me. The new chancellor has very definite plans

difference in economic development. I really think we can."

How have you been indoctrinated into the west Alabama area? Is this place a great deal different from Southern Union Community College?

"Actually there are a great many similarities: One example is the placement of this college right beside a major four-year university,

do think that in everything we do for the next few months we will have to be very careful to be sure that we are completely following the policies as they are dictated to us from the State Board of Education, our governing board, and our own internal policies, which cannot be, and are not in conflict with the policies of the State Board.

"When you have a new facility and everything is

staffing because, in doing that, we have more money available to provide materials, equipment, instruction. What is our real purpose here? Serving the students in realizing whatever goal it is that they have when they come to us. That might be to get a job, to get courses to transfer to a four-year school; that may be to get a certificate and technical training to go out and be an electrician or a plumber; that

may be to just get a promotion at the job they're already in by increasing their skills. There are just so many things that we do and it all just, to me, pretty much boils down to helping anyone who walks through that door achieve that goal that they have for bettering their status in life.

"The faculty and staff are capable, qualified, dedicated, outstanding individuals who have given me a tremendous amount of cooperation which has really caused my job to not be a difficult one."

**-Interim President
Dr. Joanne Jordan**



for the advancement of the two-year college system in this state. I think it's incumbent on every one of us to do the best we can to support his goals for moving the state forward, as well as implement our Shelton vision, neither of which are in conflict. They are very much along the same lines, going in the same direction.

"With workforce development I think our college has a real opportunity to make a statement in terms of training. It's at the forefront in the minds of our governor and our chancellor. The two-year college system can be the major vehicle—and I think our governor has identified us as the major vehicle—for workforce training. I think that's an opportunity for Shelton State and I hope we take advantage of it. I think we will be challenged in taking a greater role and making a greater effort in this aspect of our vision.

"I think that within the system as a whole, Shelton State has a great opportunity. We're right here in the middle of a corporate and industrial area and have the opportunity to attract more industry. We need to work with other local people who are interested in improving economic development in this region. We can make a

with Southern Union almost in the shadow of the other major four-year university. Economic development in both areas is extremely similar. The communities are similar. It's been an interesting revelation and one that I've enjoyed experiencing. And as far as my own personal interaction, I have met most of the Chamber leaders and attended a number of functions. We've been so busy here internally that I actually haven't had an opportunity to be as visible in the community as I would like, but it's a situation that I plan to work on. We have such great opportunities and it is a goal of mine for the college to increase the level of community interaction and cooperation."

Going back to the college situation for a second, is it fair to say that the college has now come of age as a beauracracy? It seems many people's hearts were in the right place in the past, that a lot of our trouble came from procedural issues.

Jordan: "I think that the corrections that have been brought to our attention as a result of the Postsecondary Review Committee that came to the college will make us a better college. I

exciting, you want to accomplish things so quickly that sometimes we get so focused on one goal and one mission that we may not pay careful enough attention to other aspects that are a part of accomplishing that mission and we might lose sight sometimes.

"That's a very easy thing to do. So I think we need to have a self-evaluation, a self-check pretty frequently to be sure that everything, all these actions that we're taking, all these decisions we've made are completely governed by policy. And another thing that may have emerged as a problem in the report is that sometimes policies can be interpreted differently. If it's not spelled out in black and white then sometimes those interpretations can be different for two different people. So this can sometimes be a problem as well. I think that those two factors may have influenced some of the findings of the Post-secondary Review Committee, that we may have been a little careless along the way. We might have let some things slip between the cracks.

"At a community college, we are almost required by the amount of dollars available to us to be as lean as we possibly can with

All of the things we do contribute to that.

Has your mandate changed at all in going from acting to interim president?

Jordan: "The mandate, as I understand it, is to address the problems that have been identified in the Post-secondary Review Committee report, and much of that we've done already.

"I don't see it changing the face of the college at all. We're still going about our business, going about providing the services that we talked about, that people need when they come in. And also, once we've addressed those issues, to also address things that will move us forward. I am not mandated to make tremendous changes at the college. Those should be the prerogative I would think, of a permanent president.

"I have asked for, and had approved, what I would think of as relatively minor adjustments. I really don't have the authority as interim president to make those sweeping changes.

**See Jordan
Page 8**

Milady Murphy featured lecturer at Leadership Academy

Dr. Milady Murphy, founder and director of the Wellness Center at Shelton State Community College, will be a featured lecturer on July 18, 2007 for the Alabama Community College Leadership Academy.

Nationally recognized as a leader in the field of wellness management, Murphy will present "Stress Management Techniques: The latest research to improve one's health & reduce stress" to the group.

Established in 2000, The Alabama Community College Leadership Academy is sponsored by The University of

Alabama College of Education in cooperation with The Alabama College System and The University of Alabama System. The Academy provides a year-long leadership development program for administrators and faculty members desiring to prepare themselves to take advantage of future senior-level management opportunities in two-year colleges.

The Academy activities begin with a five-day workshop in residence July 16-19, followed by four two-day seminars, which meet on Thursdays and Fridays at host campuses during the year. Using the principles of

Problem-Based Learning (PBL), participants work in teams to solve "real-world" problems faced by educational administration practitioners. The Academy features a variety of lectures, seminars, and workshops, and centers on five curricular themes.

For additional information on the Shelton State Community College Wellness Center, contact Murphy at mmurphy@sheltonstate.edu. Visit <http://academy.ua.edu> for additional information on the Alabama Community College Leadership Academy.

Shelton State staff members published in international reading publication

Three staff members from Shelton State Community College in Tuscaloosa have had an article published in the June/July 2007 issue of *Reading Today*.

Authored by Dr. Fran Turner, Director of Adult Education, Thomas J. Taylor, dean of Student Services and Julia Chancy, Literacy Coordinator of Adult Education, the article, entitled "At Your Service," focuses on a program founded last year in cooperation with the College of Human Environmental Sciences at the University of Alabama.

Several courses at the UA have a service learning component that can be met by working with adult learners to earn credit.

"Service learning can be loosely defined as a way of integrating community service with academic instruction, research and educational practice. Student learning is enhanced at the same time an urgent community need is met," said Turner.

The UA students served as tutors in Shelton State's

adult education classes in GED and Career Readiness Credential preparation, graduation exam help and skills remediation.

"Currently, the estimates are that approximately 30,000 individuals in West Alabama struggle with low literacy skills. The service learning program allows us to make a tremendous impact in the lives of these individuals in a cost-effective manner and train students to be tutors—all at the same time. It's a win/win for the individuals, the students and our community," said Taylor, Dean of Student Services at Shelton.

The 2003 "National Assessment of Adult Literacy" report issued in 2005 estimated that 30 million adults function at the most basic level of literacy skills and 11 million adults are in the non-literate category. PLUS (Project Literacy U.S.) states that one out of four adults in the United States struggles with low literacy skills every day.

"These people are your neighbors, friends and fami-

ly members who cannot read a medicine label, complete a job application, or help their children do homework. PLUS Tuscaloosa is a community wide effort using trained volunteers to teach adults to read. The program is administered and coordinated by the Shelton State Community College Adult Education program," said Turner.

The International Reading Association was founded in 1956 as a professional organization for those involved in teaching reading to learners of all ages. IRA is dedicated to promoting high levels of literacy for all by (1) improving the quality of reading instruction, (2) disseminating research and information about reading, and (3) encouraging the life-time reading habit.

Reading Today is the bi-monthly publication of the International Reading Association which focuses on news about pressing issues in literacy education and features on trends influencing the field.

Shelton State offers summer technology exploration for second year

Shelton State Community College is hosting

"Exploring Technology," a program that offers area high school students an opportunity to explore career options in eight different technology programs.

The program was first developed in 2006 when technical division associate dean Steve Fair was encouraged to develop the pilot program.

Technical instructors Jason Moore, James Logan, Kenneth Blackwell, Brett Butler and Ronnie Guy created "Exploring Technology" which brings area high school students to the campus for a two-week intensive exposure to technical areas.

The main focus of this program is to offer all students a "hands-on" experience and to furnish them as much information as possible about educational and career opportunities," said Associate Dean Steve Fair.

This year the program has expanded from 60 students to almost 100 students attending and from four areas of instruction to eight, including: Machine Tool Technology and Computerized Numerical Control, Industrial Electronics and Industrial Electricity, Welding Technology, Carpentry, Health Care, Auto Mechanics, Drafting Technology and Commercial Art.

Fair said, "The program is designed to assist students in making an informative career-path decision, to create an awareness of career opportunities in the West Alabama area, to bridge the

gap between high school and college and to enhance the visibility of technical programs at Shelton State Community College to high school students."

The college experience will give participants a hands-on introduction to diverse career possibilities, enable them to better identify their career aspirations and help them understand the educational opportunities available to them.

"Economic development in West Alabama over the last decade has resulted in industry requiring an increased number of manufacturing workers with a higher level of technical skills. This change in workforce conditions has provided Shelton State Community College with an opportunity to find new ways to meet the challenge demanded by local industry," said Susan Miller, Director of the West Alabama Workforce Development Center.

Participating students choose two areas that interest them from any of the eight programs that are offered. Students stay with one program for one week and begin a second program in the second week to observe and participate in class and lab activities. The main focus of the course is to offer all students a hands-on experience and to furnish them with as much information as possible about their educational and career opportunities.

All West Alabama public and private high schools were invited to participate in the program.

Ghosts

from page 2

want stories, you call the library. This proved to be true, because at the Huntsville Public Library, a young librarian was more than eager to share her experiences with us. B.J. began to tell me about "Dead Children's Playground." In Huntsville, this is a playground built behind Maple Hill Cemetery at the foot of a hill. "Me and My Sorority sisters went out there late at night and thought we saw something moving out there on the playground. We heard foot steps and laughter around the car. One of the braver girls went outside and put candy on the hood of the car. We turned off our lights and waited. We heard more foot-steps and scuffles. We turned the lights back on and the candy was gone. We thought it might have been the other sisters in the sorority, so we drove away and didn't think anything of it...but the other sisters had been at the restaurant all night and hadn't even come out to the playground." Needless to say, we were intrigued.

We drove out to Huntsville on a Sunday, and got there at about four in the afternoon. After about an hour of driving, we located the playground. Set back on a little trail we found a quite beautiful and quaint little old-fashioned playground. It was located in a valley-like setting. It has swings, a slide, a jungle gym, and a picnic area. It just seemed like a little neglected park. We walked into it with our digital recorder on. I began to ask questions to maybe provoke a little EVP (Electronic Voice Phenomena, the recorded sounds of ghosts). As I was recording, the digital timer on the recorder began to skip, jump ahead, stop, and pause itself. The batteries were fine, as we had just put them in, and we had never had any problems before with it. So, I pressed pause to see if that would maybe help. It then became stuck

and wouldn't un-pause. I kept pressing the pause button over and over and it wouldn't budge. Disappointed, I walked back to the top of the hill and grabbed my camera. Michelle offered to see if she could fix it. As I was walking back to the playground, Michelle called out that she had fixed it by simply pressing the pause button again. I ran back and grabbed the recorder, handed her the camera, and began recording again. Same results.



According to the authors of this "ghost-hunting" article, if one looks closely between the trees in the middle, the hazy apparition of one of the ghosts appears, but only to those who believe.

Michelle took a few pictures, recorded some herself (with the same results), and we left there before the sun went down. After reviewing the recorded material, we didn't hear anything, but what was obvious was the file itself was not hindered by the timer stopping and starting or pausing. Was it all a joke by the ghosts of Dead Children's Playground? Maybe.

The next weekend we traveled out to Andalusia and its surrounding places, River Falls, and Red Level. Now, I spoke to several people in Andalusia including a historian and a member of the city council. Both told me about their local hauntings with include a Cry Baby Bridge (a bridge where a woman lost her child and haunts the bridge looking for her) an old Lumber Mill where prisoners worked, and a cemetery in Red Level where you see ghostly apparitions. They were very eager for us to come down and take a look. On our trip out there, we found Red Level first. Now, here, we didn't find anything except a

half-abandoned town. Apparently, this town is over 200 years old. We couldn't find the graveyard, but there were plenty of creepy places around town. The Lumber Mill, we also found out, was now on private property, and the Bridge had been rebuilt and all the ghost stories had stopped once that happened. Another bust.

Driving around Alabama, hearing these stories and finding out if they are true or not, is a difficult task. You'd be hard pressed to find too

many people who even want to talk about it. And, as it is obvious, some of these stories have absolutely no validity. A library in Albertville is said to have a haunted elevator...it actually has a short in it that makes it stop on floors randomly. And like Red Level or Andalusia, it is just another tale that people tell.

So, are we disheartened by this? No. We visited other places as well: the old capital, a slave cemetery, Maple Hill, Moundville even, and saw some really neat things. We may not have gathered conclusive proof of the existence of ghosts at many of these places, but the experiences at Bryce and Dead Children's Playground are enough for us. As I am sure that Pickens County Courthouse would be for someone else. Many people don't believe in ghosts, dismiss them as hoaxes or blasphemy. Some say they are demons. As H.P. Lovecraft once said, "The oldest and strongest emotion of mankind is fear, and the oldest and strongest kind of fear is fear of the unknown..."

Jordan

from page 6

Whatever I have to do has to be approved by the Department. And I've asked for a few things that got approved and a few that haven't. I'm not batting a thousand right now. But my major role is to keep the college moving forward—stable is probably a good word. Stable and moving forward. And I think that you know, or anyone who has read the newspaper knows, the Department of Postsecondary Education will put out an advertisement for a new president in September and that process typically takes about 90 days. So that would put the December meeting of the Board, if everything goes according to schedule, the meeting at which a new president could potentially be approved.

When you spoke to the faculty and staff, you didn't rule out being a candidate for the presidency yourself. How do you feel about that now?

Jordan: "It was too early then and really too early now. Never say never. I really enjoy the challenge that goes with this job. I've enjoyed every job that I've had in two-year education and every one has been a challenge and been rewarding and a professional growth experience.

"I couldn't recommend this job more highly to anyone: great school, great future, great opportunity. Most things we do here we do well.

"We just need to take advantage of the opportunities that we have that the governor expects of us and the chancellor expects of us and that's where I'd like to see us go—to broaden ourselves and continue to do the things that we're doing with a great degree of success.

Will you tell us about your career with Southern Union?

Jordan: "During my somewhat lengthy tenure at Southern Union, I served in many positions. I started out as an instructor in the life sciences and progressed to division chair. After about 10 years of teaching—I

loved teaching and loved the interaction with students—I had an opportunity to move into administration as Director of the Extended Day Program, even though I never quite determined how we could extend the day. My other jobs in administration were Associate Dean for Advancement, Dean of Administrative Services, and, later, after a merger between Southern Union and Opelika Technical College, Vice President for Business and Student Services, Executive Vice President, and finally, Acting President.

You have an earned doctorate, right? In what field?

Jordan: "I got my doctorate in the early '70s in science education. Having been an instructor, I think that has increased my understanding and appreciation of what it is to be an administrator. We just exist to support the instructional program.

It always seemed to us being the president of a community college in Alabama has got to be one of the most-challenging, widest-ranging jobs in the world. Is that true?

Jordan: "It is a big challenge because a two-year college is really everything to everyone, or we at least try to be everything to everyone. So you just try to keep your finger on the pulse, keep your contacts, and keep your personnel happy, because if people are not happy, they're not going to want to come to work and do a good job.

"That, to me, is the first, most-critical point. Serving the population of students, the people who come to us for a service, is really our most important function. But we're not going to do that well if we don't keep our people happy and wanting to do that.

"Then the contacts that you make within the community: you always have to be sure that you're representing the college in a positive light. When you get right down to it, every one of us that is employed by Shelton State, we are identified as Shelton State no matter where we are in our community, and I know we all remember that."